

REMARKS

As indicated above, this is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/594,577. This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application.

Claims 31-56 are pending in this divisional application. Claims 1-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 31-56 have been newly added.

The claims are supported in the specification as follows:

Claims 31 and 32 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.8, line 28 to p.9, line 1; and p.9); Claims 33 and 34 (p.8, lines 12-18 and p.21, lines 30-35); claim 35 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.9, p.16); claim 36 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.9, p.16, p.17); claim 37 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.9, p.17-19); claim 38 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.10-15); claim 39 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.9, p.10-15); claim 40 (former claims 4, 16); claim 41 (former claims 5, 17); claim 42 (former claims 6, 18); claim 43 (former claims 7, 19); claim 44 (former claims 8, 20); claim 45 (former claims 9, 21); claim 46 (former claims 10, 22); claims 47-49 (p.3, lines 26-33; p.9, p.6, lines 21-29 and p.28, lines 3-8); claims 20-26 (former claims 24-30 respectively).

The new claims are in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

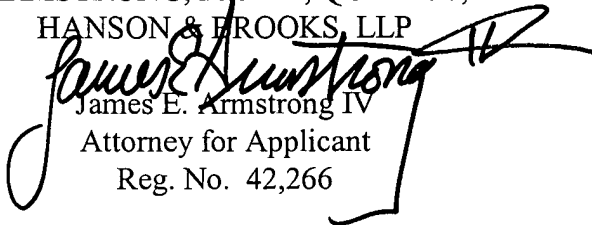
Docket No. 000683A

Divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/594,577

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Respectfully submitted,

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